

In 1911 Oldfield Thomas noted that 'The specimen [of *Lemur tardigradus*] referred to in *Mus[eu]m Ad[olphi] Frid[erici]* and redescribed in the 10th edition [of *Systema Naturae*] is still in the Stockholm Museum, and, as Dr Lönnberg informs me, is the Cinghalese Slender Loris'. Dr Sven Kullander (Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm) has located three Linnaean specimens of *L. tardigradus* in Stockholm. One of these, catalogue no. NRM 532011, is particularly well documented (including an original label from Ulriksdal Castle where the Crown Prince Adolf Friderik's collection was kept) and we now designate this as the lectotype. There is a photograph of the specimen on the Website (Linnaeus server) in Stockholm (<http://linnaeus.nrm.se/zool>).

In our application (para. 1) we cited *Bradypus didactylus* Linnaeus, 1758, the two-toed sloth, as the type species of *Choloepus* Illiger, 1811 by subsequent designation by Gray (1827). The name *Choloepus* was placed on the Official List in Opinion 91 (October 1926), and that of the type species *B. didactylus* was placed on the Official List in Direction 22 (November 1955). However, the method of type designation was recorded (Direction 24, November 1955) as subsequent designation by Miller & Rehn (1901), a designation many years later than that of Gray (1827). We propose that the entry on the Official List should be emended.

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to emend the entry on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology for *Choloepus* Illiger, 1811 to record *Bradypus didactylus* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species by subsequent designation by Gray (1827).

Additional references

- Linnaeus, C. 1746. *Museum Adolpho-Fridericianum*. Dissertation (respondent L. Balk). 50 pp., 2 pls. Holmiae.
- Linnaeus, C. 1749. *Museum principis*. Pp. 277–326 in: *Amoenitates academicae*, vol. 1. Holmiae & Lipsiae.
- Löwegren, Y. 1952. *Naturaliekabinett i Sverige under 1700-talet. Ett bidrag till zoologiens historia*. 407 pp. Lynchnos-Bibliotek, Lund.
- Wallin, L. 1991. *Catalogue of type specimens*. 4. Linnaean specimens. 233 pp. University Zoological Museum, Uppsala. (Revised version 3 published in 1994).

Comment on the proposed conservation of usage of 15 mammal specific names based on wild species which are antedated by or contemporary with those based on domestic animals

(Case 3010; see BZN 53: 28–37, 125, 192–200, 286–288; 54: 119–129, 189; 55: 43–46)

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My interests are systematics, evolution and ecology (for all of which the fashionable word is biodiversity) and I am involved in the study of animals such as the highly distinctive feral goats of Mallorca (Altaba, 1996; in press). I have examined carefully the application and the comments that have followed, and I support the proposals.

The wild ancestors of domestic animals are an immensely valuable component of global biodiversity. Unfortunately, the current status of such wild populations is often critical, and some are already extinct, either effectively exterminated or lost through extensive hybridization with domestic stocks. Thus, conservation actions should be implemented in order to preserve the resource and heritage they represent. In this sense, Case 3010 highlights a nomenclatural problem that may have serious consequences: when a name based on a domestic animal is applied to its wild ancestor the latter may be removed from protected species lists.

The solution proposed by Gentry, Clutton-Brock & Groves intends to solve this problem by keeping the use of names based on wild animals for truly wild (i.e. not feral, which are of domestic decent) populations. This procedure requires placing on the Official List a total of 15 specific names which are antedated or contemporary with others based on domestic animals. In reply to questions as to whether earlier names based on domestic stock are to be maintained (comments by Schodde, Bock, Gardner and Handley in BZN 54: 123-127), the authors of the application have made it clear that their proposal is not intended to affect the naming of domestic animals (BZN 54: 127-129). Indeed, it is aimed at maintaining stability in nomenclature, because most authors have adopted the first available name based on the wild species as valid for that wild taxon. Several authors have pointed out that there are practical advantages in having a recognised and distinct name for the wild ancestor and for its domestic derivative, irrespective of debate about their 'conspecificity': this is true in the fields of archaeology, ethology and conservation biology.

Additional references

- Altaba, C.R. 1996. Counting species names. *Nature*, **380**: 488-489.
Altaba, C.R. (In press). *La diversitat biològica: una perspectiva des de Mallorca*. Moll, Palma de Mallorca.